Start of Oberfelder Family Collection

AR 11062

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AR 11062 1/1 Oberfelder Family Collection, 1999 B38/2

Robert S.Oberfelder

Was born in New York December the Eighth 1855.
Was hired by the late Isaac Oberfelder to come to Council Bluffs to work for Oberfelder and Newman, in April 1874.
While in Omaha, one day I was introduced to the President of the Union Pacific R.R. S.S.H.Clarke by Gen G.M.Dodge, of Council Bluffs and he gave me a pass to Cheyenne and return.

A few weeks latter I went to Cheyenne and the train remained a t Sidney, Nebraska 30 minutes for breakfast and while there met some friends of mine from Council Bluffs and they informed me that there was no store worth while in Sidney and for me to start a store here and that I would do well.

On my return from Cheyenne the next nite I remained over one day at Sidney to give it the once over.

There was only a few buildings then in town but the out look for Sidney was good, as there was a Goverment Fort at the edge of the Town (Fort Sidney) with about 1000 soldiers and a company of Indian scouts Commanded by the late Frank North, and then they commenced building large warehouses where freight for Deadwood, Rapid City, Fort Sheriden, Nebraska, Spotted Tail Indian Agency Red Cloud Indian Agency, Fort Robinson, Fort Mead and many other points was forwarded and then many large fordwarding Companies started up such as Pratt and Ferris, Lantz and Son, Dickerson and Jewett and many more and then the boom started.

When I returned to Omaha I spoke to my brother Joseph was was bookeeper for Max Meyer and Bros and they only worked him 16 hours a day, and told him what I though of the move so he left it all to me.

I spoke to the late Isaac Oberfelder and at first he did not think very much of it but at last he consented to help us so the Firm of Oberfelder and Company was started.

The members of the firm was Isaac Oberfelder, Joseph Oberfelder and myself.

I think that my brother and self had about 500.00 but Isaac Oberfelder had good credit and I returned to Sidney in 1876 and rented from C.A.Moore a store.

Our first stock was mostly goods that Oberfelder and Newman of Council Bluffs could not sell in there store and then Mr.Isaac Oberfelder went to Chicago to buy the stock of boots and they was the same class that was used many years before that and was not very saleable but we soon commenced to buy goods ourselves then we started to do business. When we started we had about 3.000.00 stock but in less than 4 months we commenced to discount our bills and then the store commenced to make money.

I rented a part of the store to The Black Hills Stage Co for an office and as the first train arrived at 4 A.M we had to open the store and from that time on it was known all over the country as the ALL NIGHT store as we never closed until 12 so you see we put in long hours,

Many days we took in over 100.00 before 6 A.M then the town started to grow. We had at one time 36 saloons 3 dance houses, the First continuons show in the United States, (so Jack Havely of Chicago infore me) hotels and flop houses started up all over the town and nite life was very lively.

there was from 1000 to 15 hundred stranges in town daily and the the cow boys (we was in the center of the cow country) Bull wackers, MuleSkinners, freighters, miners going to the Black Hills which kept the town very lively.

That was in the spring of 76 but in the summer of 78 business got very dull as the steam boats took the freight from Omaha to Fort Pierre very cheap and then business fell off over 60 percent so I just bought 2 good saddle horses one to ride and the other to pack my bed and food and started out to visit the ranches from Sidney to Southern Montana.

there was many large cow outfits then in the country and had from 10 to 75 men on each ranche and I sold the men the goods (Had no samples) and charged it to the booses and NEVER lost a cent.
After that I was on the road nearly all the time as I found out that it paid but if I had to do it again I dont think I would tackel it as I ran into many indian scares but never got hurt but was held up twice but as I did not have any money I lost none
I kept that up for many years.

In 1880 we bought out the interest of Isaac Oberfelder who had never been to Sidney until we gave him nearly 20 Thousand Dollars for his interest.

His being a member of the firm was good for us all as he had a good credit and we had none but after we dessolved we enlarged our business and took a larger store then the cattle driving business from Texas and Montana started and we made out store the head quarters for all the stockmen.

My brother who was an expert at books was hired by many of the big Texas drives to keep books for them while they was up north and WE ALWAYS paid off the men in our store as the cow hands always returned to Texas by train and before they left we bought there saddles and shaps which during the dull times in winter I repaired and sold to the cow boys that was hired by Hunter, Evens and Hunter and Z.N. New man to go to Montana to drive back cattle so you see we was getting them coming and going.

We worked very hard but at the same time showed results and now days if you would ask a boy to work like we did (16 to 20 hours a day they would report you to the goverment.

In 1882 the Union Pacific R.R. commenced to start a boom to sell there land.

When the Union Pacific was built the United States Goverment gave them every other section of land (640 Acres) each side of the road (20 miles) and that brought in farmers and land buyers from all over the United States. Land was sold from 3 to 10.00 per acre but I bought very little at that time as I did not think that this would every be a farming country and then the grand rush started Thousand of acres was sold every day then the homesteders started comming in . most of them men who never lived on a farm but worked

in banks and stores and hard work soon made many of the go back to there folks in the east and another thing after the second year it got dry and many nearly starved so they sold there land very cheap

Then I got busy and commenced to buy deeded land as low as 45.00 for 160 acres (deeded land) and at that every one in our country though I was crazy but I still kept on buying and paying cash for it. The I bought the ranch at Lodgepole and paid 6.00 per acre for it and then they knew I was crazy and even went as far to write my brother in New York that I was NUTS and I received a very sharp letter from him but 2 days before I received his letter I was offered a profit of 5.000.00 for the ranch and come near taking it but I went down every few days and looked it over and then made up my mind that I NEVER would sell it and as the country commenced to get a lot of new settlers the little place called Lodgepole commenced to grow so I plotted 40 acres in town lots and made more out of the that than the farm cost me and in a short time had to lay out 40 acres more and today I have but a few lots there. At one time it looked as if Lodgepole was going to be a good sized town but it never had over 600 people and today the small town is a thing of the past as good roads and paved highways has killed them off.

Our town of Sidney is growing daily and all the small towns are closing up and defaulting on the bond they sold to build water works and lighting plants.

Every one that had land to sell knew I was buying for cash only so in time I had a big bunch of land and at no time could I get my brother to buy any and he was as big a knocker as any one but I knew that God could not lay out such a fine country without it being used some time for farms.

The 3d lot of settles was good farmers fro Eastern Nebraska and Iowa and at once the land started to boom but before going I forgot to tell you that the State of Nebraska owned 2 sections of land in every township but they could not sell it but lease it. School l

They leased it all the first year they stared to lease it but the same old thing after paying a high price for the lease they starved out and the land reverted back to the state.

Some years after that the State Land Commissinor came to Sidney and wanted me to buy it all that had reverted to the state but I informed him to try and sell it to the parties that had land near the school land but they though that no one would buy it so did not show up at the court house so I bought ~~50 and~~ the laeses on 58 sections of land in Cheyenne Co and about 20 in Kimball Co but the law says that you cant buy only one section so I put it in the name of all our family and friends and leased it for 20 years at a rentel of 15 cents per acre that is paid 6 percent interest on a value of 15 cents which made it about 5.60 cents a year rent for 640 acres and NO TAXES.

I at once wrote to the people that owned land near it and gave them the first chance to buy the laese and I started selling for 150.00 but soon raised the price to 500.00 and before I got through with them I received as much as 7.500.00 for the lease and then every one who had biught leases before lost all they put in them but I bought so cheap that I did not.

l then bought and sold land in fact never turned away a man who wanted to sell for cash but it had to be CHEAP

l am still in the same game and now think its the best investmer that one can have good farm land in a good country

l dont have any improvements such as houses on any dry farm that l have as l receive as much rent from an unimproved farm as l would frm from one highly improved.

Now if you want to know nay thing else fire away and l will shoot.

I was the first man in the State of Nebraska to put in Alfalfa at that time it was not know as alfalfa but LUCERNE.

I put in 10 acres on my Lodgepole Ranch and many of my friends though I was very unwise to break up good hay land for that weed

I bought the seed from a sheep man from Colorado and think the seed came from Switzerland.

A party near Kearney Nebraska put in a large amount a few years latter.

Born in New York City December the Eighth 1855 quit school when I was 12 years of age and learn to learn the trade of upholsterer and decorator.

Attended Night School for 3 years and the Cooper Union Literary Class. Was elected Dramatic Director Murry Hill Dramatic Asst. and vice President Jefferson Literry Union

Left New York in 1874

Was Treasurer of the Sidney Fire Dept from the start and was elected for 5 terms until I had to much money so they elected another party who left town between 2 days and the Fire Dept never received one cent then they elected me again and the same thing took place after that they elected me once more but I would not take it so that ended my membership in the Sidney Fire Dept

Am the only living Charter member of Frank Welch Lodge of Masons Am a member of the Sidney Country Club and Elks.

Was a member of the Omaha Athatlic Club from the start to the finish.

Was elected President American Exploration Co for 5 years and had charge of all the work that compnay did in the Phillipines and had more recordes than any Company in America as I received them from the Spanish Goverment and when the company did banded turned the records over to the United States Goverment

Talked before the American Mining Congress at Joplin Mo in November 1907

Was Presidentel Elected on the democratic tannan ticket in 1900
Was appointed Col on Gov Shallenbergers staff.
Was elected Mayor of Sidney
Was President of the Nebraska State Fish Commission for 6 years.

"WATER IS KING; THE SOIL ITS QUEEN"
AN ARTICLE BY JOSEPH OSTHEIMER PUBLISHED IN THE
TAMMANY TIMES IN EMAHA EDITION
VOLUME VIII, NO. 181, NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 12, 1896

Cheyenne County, Nebraska, 400 miles west of Omaha, contains two million acres of land, three hundred and seventy-five thousand of which are under 500 miles of irrigating canals. Leading from these canals are 1,600 miles of laterals. There are 10,000 acres of alfalfa, forty-four miles of completed railroad in the country, 120 miles projected; 200 miles of canals projected, and all waiting the magic wand of capital.

It is the best-watered section of the West, crossed by the North Platte River in the norther part, the Lodge Pole in the southern part, and traversed by the Pumpkin Seed, Lawrence Fork, Greenwood, Cedar, and numerous small and spring streams.

Irrigation, while a new industry to many of our settlers, is a practical and certain method of agriculture; practical because it has been successfully practiced by many millions of the inhabitants of the earth from time immemorial; certain, because under this system are to be found in all ages, since the dawn of civilization, the most wealthy and densely populated countries, which without irrigation would return to their primeval condition, and their many millions of people to barbarism.

With an altitude of about 4,000 feet, a mild climate, magnificent natural highways, and illimitable pure well-water at a moderate depth, the healthfulness of this region is unsurpassed.

Our immense area of grass lands provide perpetual pasturage, and stock running at large with no other feed are marketable at any season of the year side by side with eastern corn-fed stock.

Sidney, the county seat, a city of 2,000 inhabitants, is the Union Pacific division point, and the site of the round house, the repair shops, and the United States land office. Here are excellent stone quarries, operated by the Sidney Stone Company, furnishing limitless limestone, easy of access, and of a superior quality, giving employment to a large number of people; a large flour mill, with a capacity of 100 barrels a day, and many other enterprises. Sidney has a $20,000 public school building, a magnificently equipped passenger depot, costing $15,000; four churches, with large congregations, and several large native-stone business blocks. During the hard times of the past few years not a single failure in business has occurred in western Nebraska.

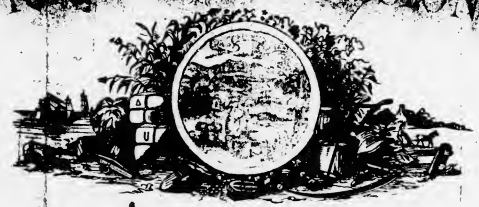
Page upon page might be written of the wonderful resources yet undeveloped in the western portion of this great State.

If irrigation cannot be called a panacea for all the evils that afflict us in the cities, it will certainly relieve and liberate hundreds of thousands of families that must otherwise be doomed to desolation and starvation till death shall be a welcome visitor.

To all who seek to better their condition, Cheyenne County extends greeting, good cheer and a hearty welcome.

Sidney, Neb. Joseph Oberfelder

CERTIFICATE OF ADMISSION TO BAR



District Court South
JUDICIAL DISTRICT,
STATE OF NEBRASKA.

County of

I Francis A Cain, Clerk of said Court, do hereby Certify that on the
fifteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred
and eighty seven [illegible] was admitted to practice in said Court as an
ATTORNEY
and the Oath of Office was duly administered to him in open Court.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said
Court, at Adams, this [illegible] day
of [illegible] A.D. 188

Clerk

Oberfelders were successful

Continued from Page One

By the spring of '76, 1,000 to 1,500 strangers were arriving in Sidney daily going to and from the gold fields and business boomed.

But in 1978 business got very dull when supplies to the gold fields began being shipped up the Missouri River to Fort Pierre, S.D. by steamboat, so Bob bought a couple of saddle horses and began traveling to ranches as far away as southern Montana to peddle his goods. He recalled that he encountered many Indian scares along the way and was held up twice, but never lost any money because he didn't take any along.

In 1880, the brothers bought out their Uncle Isaac's share of the business for nearly $20,000. About that time, numerous cattle drives from Texas started moving through the region and business boomed again.

JOE BEGAN keeping books for many of the large drovers and the cowboys were "always," according to Bob, paid off in the store. Undoubtedly the cowboys would make purchases in the store then. The brothers would also buy the saddles, shaps and other rigging of the cowboys who were returning to Texas by train and then repair and resell the equipment to other cowboys.

"So you see we got them coming and going, "Bob wrote.

NOT LONG afterwards, the pioneer businessmen got in on another bonanza when the land boom began and homesteaders started flocking to the region.

When many of the original settlers couldn't make a living on the land, Bob began buying their property, much against the advice of his brother and others supposedly in the know. He recalled buying a quarter section for as little as $45 and always paid cash.

"I knew that God could not lay out such a fine country without it being used some time for farms," he recollected.

One of Bob Oberfelder's more profitable deals involved school land. After being turned back to the state by the original lessees, Bob acquired the leases on 58 sections in Cheyenne County and about 20 in Kimball County for just $5.60 rent per year for a 20-year lease. He recalled that no one else bid on the land and his offer was 15 cents an acre.

He at once wrote to those who owned and near the school sections and gave them first chance to buy the leases. He started selling them for $150 and eventually received as high as $7,500 for them.

"I never turned away a man who wanted to sell for cash, but it had to be cheap," he wrote.

SOME OF THE land was located near Lodgepole and was divided into lots for the town site. It was here that Bob claimed he planted the first alfalfa, then known as lucerne, ever grown in Nebraska.

About two sections of the property remained in the Oberfelder family until a few years ago when it was finally sold. The Oberfelder Trust still presents a watch to an outstanding senior at Lodgepole High School each year.

Most of the time the Oberfelders lived in Sidney they were the only Jewish family in the territory. However, William said that as far as he knows there was no anti-Semitism and relates that his grandmother often sent her brood to the Episcopal church so they'd get some religious training.

Incidentally, William notes that the first site his grandmother saw when she stepped off the train in Sidney as a new bride was two horse thieves hanging from the yardarm.

William, now 52, recalls that he often visited his Great-Uncle Bob in Sidney. He notes that Bob lived in the upstairs of the building that is being razed. While the stairway was dark, plain and austere, the apartment "could have been in the finest European hotel of the '90s era."

It was decorated with oil paintings, thick, dark red drapes, wooden carved furniture, over-stuffed couches and fancy lamps that he had apparently purchased while on his trips to Europe or the Far East, William recalls.

HE ALSO remembers waking up one morning in the apartment and finding a chrome, pearl-handled pistol under the pillow, obiviously a carryover from the days when the law of the gun ruled Sidney.

Hanna Oberfelder died in 1922, Joe in 1931 and Bob in the late 1930's in Cheyenne, where he lived in his later years.

William relates that on Bob's 80th birthday in 1935, the old-timer gave all his relatives who came to visit him $1,000. However, William relates that he didn't fare so well on one of his visits.

"He offered me $20 but I tried to be nice and told him dad had given me some money to come see him. So he said okay and stuck the money back in his pocket," the Franklin, Mich., businessman said with a chuckle over the telephone.

Among those who worked on the building that is now biting the dust was Martin Cape, a stone mason and father of Bob Cape, a Dalton farmer. Bob Cape still has a receipt made out to his father that Bob Oberfelder gave him that is dated Sept. 24, 1887, for $14 from Jenner and McCuley, who apparently were the contractors on the structure.

After being vacated by the Oberfelders, the building had been used by a shoe repair shop, a bar and barber shop. Orville Filsinger, whose firm has been knocking the walls down, notes that after 90 years the structure wasn't in too good a shape anymore.

Here's hoping, though, that in the years to come the colorful family that erected it will long be remembered.

Births

ANDREA ALLISON OWEN

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Owen of Chappell are the parents of a 6 pound, 13½ ounce daughter, Andrea Allison, born Jan. 31 at 8:59 p.m.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Owen of Chappell and Mr. and Mrs. John Biehle of Norfolk.

Great-grandmother is Mrs. Erwin Tiegs of Norfolk.

BILLY JO COX JR.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill J. Cox of Sidney are the parents of a 4 pound, 15 ounce son, Billy Jo, born Feb. 2 at 10:32 a.m.

He has a sister Candace Louise.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Cox of Sidney and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Merrell of Crawford.

Great grandmothers are Mrs. Maude Merrell of Gibbon, Neb., and Mrs. Myrtle Schneider of Tyndall, S.D.

Sorge participat

Navy Fire Control Technician Second Class Bruce C. Sorge, son of Mildred Sorge of Sidney, recently participated in exercise "Readex 1-77" in the South China and Philippine Seas.

He is serving as a crewmember aboard the nuclear powered guided missile cruiser USS Long

Have a heart
Send I
LoveB
Bou

People, Places & Things

JACK H. LOWE

THE SANDS OF TIME FLOW ON: Bill Oberfelder of Rancho Mirage, CA stopped at Sabin's Amoco Station the other day and wondered if there still is anyone around who remembers the Oberfelders.

We can assure Bill that the Oberfelders are remembered with deep nostalgia and great respect.

Bill's father was Irving Oberfelder, who was the son of Judge and Mrs. Joseph Oberfelder. Bill's great uncle was the legendary Col. Robert S. Oberfelder.

Joe and Bob Oberfelder came west from New York in the 1870's at about the time of The Black Hills Gold Rush.

The Oberfelders opened a furnishings and supply store for the hundreds of adventurers who were lured to the west by the same promise of fortune and daring which brought the Oberfelders out into frontier country. The Oberfelders prospered, not only in supplying natives and travelers with their needs but in dealing in buffalo skins with Indians and hunters. They also were astute property buyers and investors. They maintained marketing connections with old acquaintances in New York and helped write a fascinating story of how the west was really won.

Does anyone remember the Oberfelders? They sure do, Bill, just as they remember Buffalo Bill and Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickok and Billy the Kid and all of those other frontier characters who got more publicity than the Oberfelders but probably didn't do as much to lay down a solid foundation for the heritage that came our way down through generations.

The Oberfelders built their store of native stone on what is now 10th Avenue, at the site now utilized for a public parking lot on the west side of 10th at Hickory Street. Col. Bob, a lifelong bachelor, lived upstairs. Joe and his family had a home across the street from what is now the United States Postoffices on Illinois Street.

None of the Oberfelder children remained in Sidney after they grew up. We seem to remember that Irving (Bill's father) lived in Detroit. The one we remember best is Arthur, who was an entertainment entrepreneur and showman in Denver. There were four or five others, sons and daughters, who often came back to see the parents and their Uncle Bob. There hasn't been an Oberfelder in residence in Sidney since Col. Bob died in the early 1930's.

We're going to write Bill Oberfelder and send him a copy of this article and assure him that the Oberfelder name is still a trademark in Sidney, 120 years after Joe and Bob came out from New York to help make western history. How could we forget them?

THE EVER CHANGING SCENE: It isn't just the Autumn foliage that is on display in Sidney these days. The ever changing scene brings new sights, new people, new happenings. Add to this the news we get from others who left Sidney in body but never in spirit and you can fill a column like this with minimum effort. For instance:

That 'HARDY' sign atop the apartment house at 9th Avenue and Jackson Street gives us goosebumps because in years past we lived there, we danced there and we made that apartment house a part of the community scene. Art and Clare Hardy built the apartment complex shortly after World War I and it was a showplace to be sure. Not only did it provide the nicest apartments in town but the entire lower (basement) floor was designed to be a dance hall. That's where we held our public dances (before the city auditorium

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Vol. 104, No. 116 Sidney, Nebraska, Monday, February 7, 1977 Est... ...ed In 1873

Oberfelder Building was once center for thriving business

By DON MARSHALL

Of all the early residents of Sidney, few played a more important role in its development or led more colorful lives than the Oberfelder brothers, Bob and Joe. They opened a general merchandise store in the frontier community in 1879 and remained active in Sidney business until into the 1900s.

The destruction of the Oberfelder Building in downtown Sidney the past few weeks is obliterating one of the last physical reminders of the family here, but it seems likely that the Oberfelder name will always remain in the town's historical annals.

The towering building, constructed of hand-hewn native stone, was a classic frontier structure located on 10th Street near Hickory and was the town's largest retail store at one time. It was erected in 1887 and from inside its two-foot thick walls the brothers sold thousands of items while conducting a far-flung operation.

Initially, the natives of New York had a building just a short distance to the east of the old stone structure. It reportedly faced Hickory, then known as Front Street, which was the busiest hub of Sidney in the early days. The town in the late 1800s naturally centered around the Union Pacific Railroad, which was just across the street to the north.

BOB OBOBERFELDER is said to have been the more outgoing of the pair. He reportedly died a millionaire, probably the first in this region. A bachelor throughout his life, he served as Sidney's mayor, was treasurer of the fire department, as Ferms, was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge and a member of the Elks Lodge and country club.

In a short biographical sketch of his life, Bob also noted that he was president of the Nebraska State Fish Commission for six years and served as president of the American Exploration Co. He was named a colonel by Nebraska Gov. A.C. Shallenberger and carried that title for many years.

Besides being an astute merchandiser, Bob acquired a large amount of land at bargain basement prices throughout the region and is remembered as a world traveler by long-time Sidney residents. He is said to have journied extensively at a time when it was very uncommon to do so and may have gone around the world.

Joe, on the other hand, was a more low-key, family man who took care of the details, kept the books for the firm and raised eight children.

All eight--Blanche, Clarabelle, Sidney, Lillian, Arthur, Leona, Irving and Hazel--are now deceased. Irving's son, William, now a businessman in the Detroit area, is the final male with the Oberfelder name surving from the family that had Sidney roots. He supplied the Telegraph with considerable information about the clan while other data for this story was obtained from Sidney's, historian emeritus, Clark Fuller.

Ironically, two of the children of Joe and Hanna Oberfelder, never had any children and the other six had just one apiece.

THE STORY is told by William Oberfelder that his Great-Uncle Bob once related to him that he left school at age 12 after throwing an ink well at his teacher. Bob's grandfather, a wealthy man, then gave him "a million dollars worth of advice." He reportedly handed the grandson a dollar bill and said "here's a buck, eat well on the road."

Bob Oberfelder, in his memoirs, said he moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1874 to work for his Uncle Isaac in a store. A short while later, Bob was in Omaha and met the president of the Union Pacific Railroad, who gave him a pass to Cheyenne and back.

The train stopped in Sidney for about 30 minutes for breakfast and while here, he learned that there were "no worthwhile stores" in Sidney. Upon his return trip, Oberfelder remained in Sidney an extra day to give it the once over.

There were only a few buildings in the town, but the outlook was good. There were still about 1,000 soldiers at Ft. Sidney and the Sidney-Deadwood Trail was opening to the gold fields in the Black Hills.

Thus, Bob contacted his brother, who was working 16 hours a day for $16 a month in Council Bluffs, and Uncle Isaac. The brothers had about $500 between them while Uncle Isaac had good credit rating and the store was opened in 1878.

THE FIRST STOCK was mostly goods from the Council Bluffs store that hadn't sold and Uncle Isaac went to Chicago and bought some more up-to-date items for the Sidney business that weren't well accepted here, either.

But the brothers soon began doing their own buying and within four months the store was making money.

In his story, Bob recalled that the first train whistled into Sidney at 4 a.m. and they never closed the store until midnight. They often took in over $100 before 6 a.m. he recollected.

Photo not a...

The old Oberfelder Building, with its fancy facade and lots of history, has been razed the past few weeks. It was said to have been the site of Sidney's busiest retail store at one time.

Herbold sheimer wins state VOD contest

Tom Herbold sheimer

In the speech he gave to win the Nebraska Voice of Democracy Contest, Tom Herboldsheimer of Potter tells of a bus trip he took last summer, and as the result of his victory will get to do plenty of traveling.

The announcement of Herboldsheimer's victory was made Saturday during the Mid-Winter Conference of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary held in Norfolk.

He is believed to be the first state winner of the contest from the southern Panhandle.

A junior at Potter High School, Herboldsheimer will participate in the national contest to be held March 4-8 in Washington, D.C., and then attend the 1977 American Academy of Achievements Salute to Excellence Weekend at Disneyworld near Orlando, Fla., June 23-26. Both trips will be all-expense paid.

Second in the state contest went to Christie Hasch of Bassett and third to Dave Cantral of North Platte.

A TOTAL OF 1,340 students participated in the state competition at the local level. As the state winner, Herboldsheimer received $300 in savings bonds. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kinley Herboldsheimer.

"The topic of this year's contest is "What America Means to Me."

Herboldsheimer, in his speech, tells how he took many of America's freedoms for granted until he went on the bus trip last summer and sat next to a visitor from Germany who had seen people try to break through the Berlin wall to freedom and fail.

"As I talked with him I started to learn what America means to me. In many other countries, hundreds of

The national contest includes five college scholarships ranging from $1,500 to $10,000 in value.

HERBOLDSHEIMER and Mary Louise Knapp of Kimball, who was the runnerup in the district Voice of Democracy Contest, swapped places in the American Legion's District Oratorical Contest held Sunday at Minatare.

Miss Knapp, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Knapp and a sophomore at Kimball County High School, won the district contest for the second year in a row while Herboldsheimer was second. Third went to Nick Swanstrom, a senior at Sidney High School. Prizes of $25, $15 and $10 were given.

Miss Knapp will participate in the state contest in Lincoln in February.

VFW Department Commander Carl Schroeder of Tekamah will accompany Herboldsheimer to Washington in March. Mr and Mrs. Marion Whitaker of Sidney, former department commander and auxiliary president of the Nebraska VFW, respectively, plan to also attend the mid-winter conference in the nation's capital where the national competition will be held.

Hearing on courts

Abraham Oberfelder paused on the Main Street of East Westmoreland village in the 1870s. Oberfelder passed through the region on his way home to New York. He must have been a surprising sight as he walked through the countryside with this huge pack balanced on his back.

Family Record

	Born	Married	
1			Ohio 4th 1908
2			December 17th 1890
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8		March 3. 18	
9			January 20, 1941
10			Ceiba 1, 1938
11			
12			
13			
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15			
16			
17			
18			July 2d 1897
19			
20			June/2d 1904
21			
22			
23			
24			

Edward R.	Feb. 24th 1836	March 22 1908
Albert E	Jan 15th 1878	
Joseph	May 9th 1880	Feb 28th 1906
Eugene	Sept 1883	

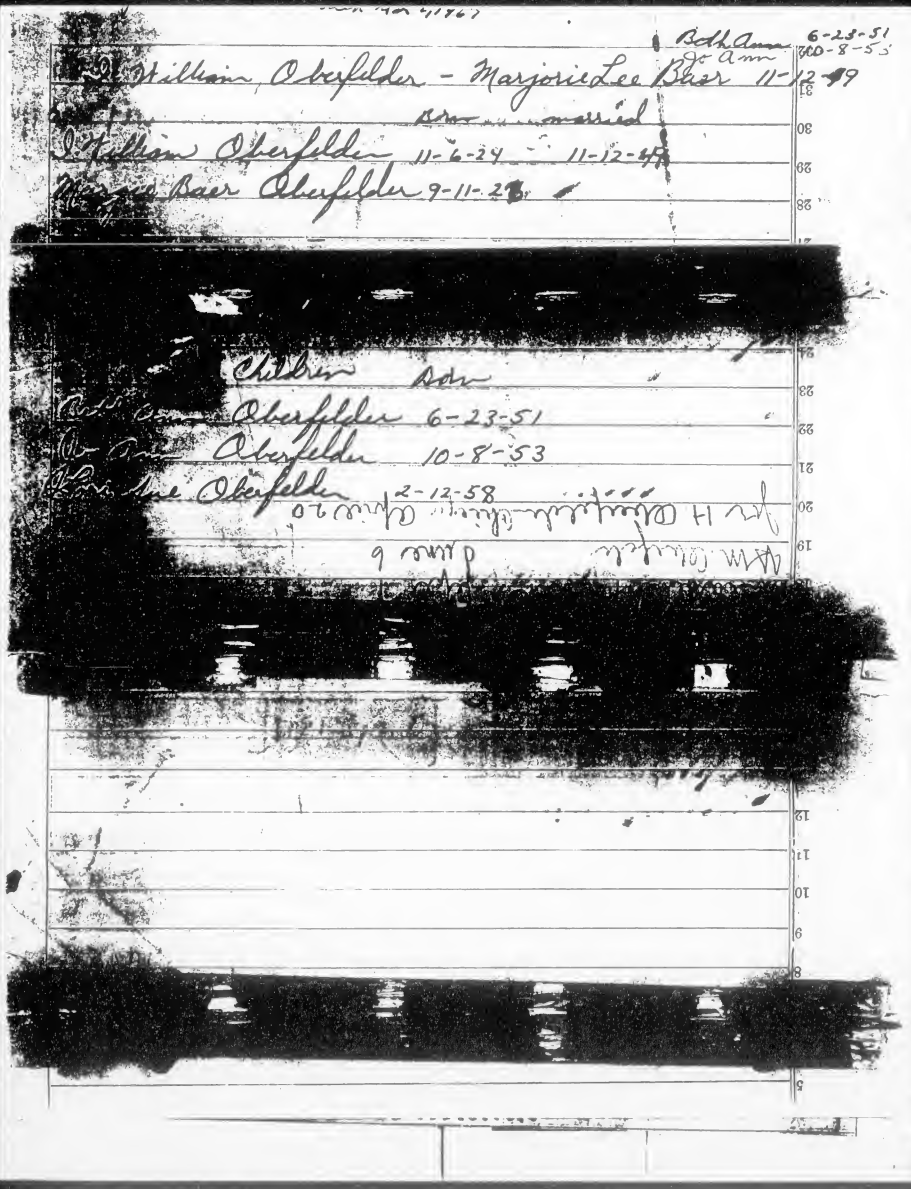
[illegible]	Sept 18th [illegible]	Feb 2nd 1881	Oct 1st 1930
[illegible]	June 23rd 1876	do do	Dec 16th 1917

Children

[illegible]	[illegible]	Dec 30 1901	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Oct 6 1908	Clarence Irving Oberfell July 1956
[illegible]	Sept. 2nd 1885	[illegible]	[illegible]
Clara Belle	Dec 3rd 87	March 6th 1912	Lois Ettinger Dec. 2, 1913
Chester Milton	Aug 6th 1890	July 25 1914	Robbet
Beatrice Hazel	April 28th 92		
Irving Tobias	Sept 29th 94	Jan 7 1919	Jan 7 1919 Irving written Born Nov 6 '19
Bessie	March 1st 1897	April 18/20	

Rebecca Oberfelder + Dec 22/1853 + March 3rd 89 twice
[illegible] Oberfelder June 10/1960 + do do

Tobias Oberfelder + [illegible] & J. Hellman Oberfelder D-G-



End of Oberfelder Family Collection